

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALEXAN 01075 052137Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 EB-08 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00
/078 W

-----069886 060815Z /12

R 050920Z OCT 77
FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1296
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO 1487
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALEXANDRIA 1075

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, PINT, EG, XH
SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAKIAN CONSUL GENERAL'S VIEWS ON BLOC
RELATIONS WITH EGYPT

1. CZECHOSLOVAKIAN CONSUL GENERAL ZDANIK KRALIK PAID COURTESY CALL
ON 4 OCTOBER 1977, FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM HOME LEAVE.

2. AFTER EXCHANGE OF GREETINGS, KRALIK MENTIONED WITH SOME
CONCERN THAT HE HAS RUN INTO DIFFICULTIES TRYING TO ARRANGE A
COURTESY CALL ON THE GOVERNOR FOR HIS AMBASSADOR (ON HIS FIRST
VISIT TO ALEXANDRIA). HE SAID GOVERNOR PLEADED RAMADAN (AUGUST
15 TO SEPTEMBER 13), POST-RAMADAN CATCH-UP, NASSER DAY, OCTOBER
WAR DAY AND RELATED CELEBRATIONS. ALTHOUGH CZECH CONGEN POINTED
OUT ONLY FIVE MINUTES NECESSARY FOR FORMAL CALL AND LONGER
CONVERSATIONS COULD WAIT UNTIL LATER, HE HAS STILL RECEIVED NO
APPOINTMENT.

3. ON MATTER OF SADAT EMBARGO ON COTTON EXPORTS TO CZECHOSLAVAKIA
(AND USSR), KRALIK NOT ONLY CONFIRMED SHIPMENTS TEN DAYS AFTER
SADAT INJUNCTION, REPORTED PREVIOUSLY BY EMBASSY CAIRO AND
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PAGE 02 ALEXAN 01075 052137Z

CONGEN (ALEXANDRIA 0927), BUT BOASTED SHIPMENTS CONTINUE AND
THAT CZECH IMPORTS OF EGYPTIAN COTTON ARE "LARGER THAN EVER BEFORE,
MOST OF IT SINCE THE SADAT SPEECH." COMMENT: ONLY COTTON MOVEMENT
WE HAVE SEEN SINCE AUGUST 26 DATE OF ABOVE REFTEL WAS MARKED FOR
JAPAN AND BEING LOADED ON JAPANESE SHIP. KRALIK DID SAY SHIPMENT
WE NOTED AUGUST 26, MARKED FOR GDANSK AND BEING LOADED ON
EAST GERMAN SHIP, WAS FOR ULTIMATE DESTINATION CZECHOSLOVAKIA. -

END COMMENT.

4. KRALIK SAID GENERAL TRADE WAS RUNNING AT ABOUT USUAL LEVELS OR JUST A LITTLE DOWN. HOWEVER, CZECH TOURISM TO EGYPT WAS WAY DOWN, "BECAUSE WE HAVE USED ALMOST ALL OUR POUNDS." KRALIK SMILED AND ADDED: "THIS WILL MEAN YOU WILL NOT HAVE SO MANY CALLERS HERE," REFERRING TO SIZEABLE NUMBER OF CZECH TOURISTS WHO SOUGHT US REFUGE THROUGH CONGEN IN LAST TWO YEARS.

5. OF PURELY PERSONAL/BIO INTEREST WAS HIS CONFIRMATION HE WOULD BE LEAVING ALEXANDRIA AT YEAR'S END. HE TOLD US HE WAS DUE TRANSFER IN JULY 1977, BUT SUCCESSOR (NAMED A YEAR AGO) DEVELOPED HEART CONDITION AND CANNOT COME. KRALIK WAS ASKED TO EXTEND ONE YEAR, BUT REFUSED, AND NOW HAS AGREEMENT, "SIGNED BY A DEPUTY MINISTER," THAT HE WILL BE LEAVING BY DECEMBER OR JANUARY. WE ALSO LEARNED FOR FIRST TIME THAT KRALIK WAS VICE CONSUL IN ALEXANDRIA FIFTEEN YEARS AGO. A NON-ARABIC SPEAKER, HE DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE ANY STRONG AFFECTION FOR EGYPT.
CHASE

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